

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the June 11, 2012 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Will Bigl (2012), Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorrow (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2014)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Marilyn Gerling (Sr. Ctr. Assn.), Emil Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Wharton (Juniper Hill)

STAFF: Barbara Winslow (Sr. Social Worker), Kevin Grunwald (Dir. of Human Services)

REGRETS: Carol Pellegrine (2012), Joan Quarto (2012)

GUESTS: Rita Braswell, Lyda Bilokur, David Ferraro

Minutes: The minutes of the May meeting were approved with the correction that Don Nolan had regretted. It was suggested that members call April directly when unable to attend a meeting.

Correspondence – April distributed an invitation to a farewell reception for Carol Pellegrine, former COA chair, and several others.

Wellness Center – Barbara Winslow reported that she is setting up meetings with various groups to discuss emergency preparedness. She is looking into the possibility that Mansfield may become a Food Share site.

Senior Center – There were 25 people at the Chinese supper and about 10 additional folks came later to enjoy the Chinese dance troupe. We are all encouraged to attend future Thursday evening events this summer.

Senior Center Association – Marilyn Gerling said the annual banquet will be held in-house this year. She also told us she is resigning as of June 30. Rita Braswell has agreed to serve as the new president and Jean Ann Kenney the new vice president following their official election later this month.

Assisted Living – Kevin Grunwald said Masonicare representatives have met with the governor regarding the need for water in the area where they would like to build. Kevin also reported that Stephen LeGault has identified property in southern Mansfield that would be an appropriate building site for an independent living facility and is looking for financial backing.

Community Information – Juniper Hill will have a speaker regarding scams on June 13th. Jensen's has opened its new pool and will have a Fathers' Day breakfast on the 17th. Glen Ridge will welcome Barbara Winslow to speak on emergency preparedness on July 11th.

New Business - April welcomed Deb Migneault, Community Liaison for the Connecticut Commission on Aging. This office is a source of information on services and supports for the elderly. One of her areas of expertise is aging in place. A task force to study this issue was called for in the last legislative session. Deb encouraged anyone interested in serving on the task force to contact his/her legislator(s). Deb can be reached at cga.ct.gov/coa

COA Officers – The following officers were duly nominated and elected: April Holinko, chair; Will Bigl, vice chair; Joan Terry, secretary.

Old Business – April read a letter she had written to the Chronicle correcting an article which appeared recently in which she was misquoted.

Memo to Transportation Committee – A memo asking for a bus shelter at the Community Center was drafted by Kevin and approved with one change. April will send the memo on to the Committee.

Triad – The committee continues to sponsor meetings where Joan Buck speaks about her experience with telephone scammers.

Will asked for volunteers to work with him on a sub-committee that will keep the Council aware of the need for additional senior center space. Marilyn Gerling and Sam Gordon offered to work on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry, secretary

Mansfield 202 Strategic Plan

Senior Services Action Items

1. Encourage the Town Council to build a new Senior Center to meet the need for additional meeting space and parking.
2. Establish a Board of Senior Citizens to oversee and coordinate senior affairs, i.e. Assisted Living
3. Maintain a listing of agencies that provide home care and health services to seniors who choose to remain in their homes
4. Improve local transportation system to benefit all levels of our population.
5. Provide local tax relief for residents who are 70 years and older.
6. Encourage area businesses to provide part- or full-time employment opportunities for seniors.
7. Explore possibility of hosting Senior Summer Olympics in conjunction with UConn.

Proposed Goals for the Commission on Aging, 2011-2012

1. Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town's strategic planning initiative.
2. Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
3. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefits programs.
4. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.